

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:RVFIMBRES:RSDPISCOLL:BJD

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:RVFIMBRES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PINOCHET EMISSARIES SEEK MEETING WITH
GEORGE MEANY, AFL-CIO

REF: SANTIAGO 6025

1. BC DIRECTOR TALKED TO ERNEST LEE, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AFL-CIO. SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WAS OUTLINED TO HIM URGING THAT AFL-CIO RECEIVE EMISSARIES DELIVERING PERSONAL PINOCHET LETTER TO MEANY. LEE AGREED REPORTED ACTIONS BY GOC INCLUDING RELEASE MINE UNION MEMBERS WAS WELCOME SHIFT IN GOC THINKING. ALSO THAT AFL-CIO SHOULD SEE THIS AS OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN LEVERAGE IN CHILE WITH RESPECT TO ITS FREE LABOR UNION OBJECTIVE.

2. LEE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE PINOCHET RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF AFL-CIO. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT FOR CHILE TO KNOW THAT UNTIL FREE TRADE UNION RIGHTS ARE RESTORED, AFL-CIO WILL TEND TO JOIN IN THE CONDEMNATION OF CHILEAN MILITARY REGIME. HE NOTED THAT THE ICFTU IS PUTTING OUT A DECLARATION ATTACKING THE CHILEAN JUNTA IN CONJUNCTION WITH SEPTEMBER 11 CHILEAN SOLIDARITY DAY. HE OBSERVED THAT WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS MORE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM AND
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LESS FORMAL EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS; THEY WANT RESULTS NOT RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO RECEIVING PINOCHET'S PLENIPOTENTIARIES, HE SAID MEANY WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE GIVEN A VERY TIGHT

SCHEDULE LEADING UP TO AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 2. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS, HE STRESSED MEANY DURING THE NEXT WEEK WILL BE IN AND OUT OF WASHINGTON ON TRIPS TO MIAMI, PITTSBURGH AND AKRON.

4. AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD RECEIVE PINOCHET'S EMISSARIES, LEE SAID THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY. HE COMPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT RODRIGUEZ IS NOT A LEGITIMATE TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE. HE FEARED THAT TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION INCLUDING RODRIGUEZ WOULD SUBJECT AFL-CIO TO CRITICISM.

5. LEE SAID HE COMMUNICATED FOREGOING TO CHILEAN CHARGE AMENABAR.

6. AMENABAR TOLD US THAT THE RESULTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH LEE WERE VERY FRIENDLY, THAT MEANY WOULD BE OUT OF TOWN, BUT THAT LEE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION AND FORWARD LETTER TO MEANY. HE ADDED VISIT NOT NECESSARY GIVEN MEANY ABSENCE. AMENABAR INDICATED HE WAS RECOMMENDING THAT LETTER NEED NOT BE PERSONALLY DELIVERED.

7. IN EARLIER REPORT, AFL-CIO OFFICIAL SAID THEY HAD ALSO RECEIVED LETTERS FROM MINLAB NICANOR DIAZ COMMENTING ON "HALF TRUTHS CIRCULATING IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE SUPPOSED SUSPENSION OF AIFLD ACTIVITIES IN CHILE". DIAZ REITERATED GOC'S GENERAL SUPPORT OF AIFLD BUT COMPLAINED THAT AIFLD'S DIRECTOR HAD TIED HIS PROGRAMS TO "ONE PARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTY", THEREBY CONTRADICTING GOC POLICY OF "DEPOLITICIZING LABOR MOVEMENT". DIAZ SAID INSTITUTE WILL HAVE FULL COOPERATION OF HIS MINISTRY PROVIDED IT AVOIDS "POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP".

8. WE REITERATE THAT FROM OUR CONVERSATION LEE INDICATED HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER RECEIVING A PROPERLY STRUCTURED DELEGATION BEARING PINOCHET'S LETTER. THE EMBASSY MAY WANT TO KEEP THIS IN MIND IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOC. WITH REFERENCE TO AIFLD PROGRAM,
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IT APPEARS FROM HERE PINOCHET'S REPORTED ACTION MAY HAVE FURTHER SOFTENED GOC STANCE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, LABOR RELATIONS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE211672
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/BC:RVFIMBRES:RSDPISCOLL:BJD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750308-0275
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509103/baaaaatf.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, CI, AFL-CIO, (MEANY, GEORGE)
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006